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The Tangi Times



MONDAY MOJO EDITION



MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

ONE DOLLAR

Summer Brain Sizzle

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

When the school doors close and the mosquitoes open their annual all-you-can-eat buffet, it's easy for kids' brains to slip into summer snooze mode. But parents across Louisiana don't need to panic – or turn into drill sergeants – because the internet is brimming with fun, free online courses that can sneak a little learning into the long, hot days.

Think of it as sweet tea for the mind: refreshing, energizing, and (thanks to Wi-Fi) readily available without even leaving your air-conditioned living room.

For starters, Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org) is a trusty favorite for a reason. This free platform serves up everything from kindergarten counting to high school calculus, all in bite-sized video lessons that feel more like magic tricks than math homework. They've even got SAT prep and personal finance for teens who are eyeing the grown-up world.

If your child would rather build a rocket than a



résumé, NASA's STEM @ Home for Students (www.nasa.gov/stem) is out of this world – literally. They offer activities and online lessons for various age levels, including coding challenges, virtual moon missions, and how to grow plants in space (you know, just in case Earth gets too humid).

For the little artists and storytellers in your life, Storybird (www.storybird.com) offers free creative writing courses that let kids create their own illustrated

books and poems. It's like a digital bayou of imagination, minus the gators. While some premium features cost money, there's still plenty of free content for blossoming young authors.

And for those future entrepreneurs, engineers, or "I wanna build a robot out of spare parts in the garage" types, Scratch by MIT (www.scratch.mit.edu) introduces kids 8 and up to coding through colorful games and interactive animations. It's drag-and-drop coding that's more fun than catching fireflies in a mason jar.

Whether your child is itching to get ahead in algebra, curious about how stars are born, or wants to code the next viral video game, there's a course waiting online. So this summer, toss a popsicle to the dog, give the kids some digital brain snacks, and give your household the gift of learning that doesn't feel like school.

You might just raise the next rocket scientist... or at the very least, a very clever lemonade stand CEO.

FINDING ZEN WITH FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

Forget your bland, silent yoga studios, folks, because there's a wild new trend sweeping the nation, and it's got tails wagging and hooves prancing: yoga with animals! This isn't some fleeting bayou breeze, either.

While puppy yoga has gained a lot of traction recently on social media, the concept of animal-assisted yoga, particularly with goats, has actually been around for nearly a decade, popping up in places like Oregon back in 2016. So, if you're looking for a delightfully quirky way to find your inner peace (and maybe a little external laughter), this is your jam.

What exactly is all the fuss about? Imagine holding a downward dog only to have a tiny goat casually hop onto your back for a better view, or a



mischievous puppy licking your ear during savasana. That's pretty much the gist!

Animal yoga is all about combining the mindful movements and calming breaths of traditional yoga with the unpredictable, joyful, and often hilarious presence of furry, four-legged friends. It's a delightful blend of physical exertion and pure, unadulterated animal therapy.

The benefits, you ask? Oh, they're as plentiful as mosquitos after a summer rain, but way more

pleasant! Interacting with animals is scientifically proven to reduce stress hormones like cortisol, lower blood pressure, and boost those feel-good chemicals like serotonin and oxytocin.

So, while you're stretching your hamstrings, these critter companions are stretching your smile muscles and melting away your worries. Plus, the sheer unexpectedness of a goat nibbling your hair or a puppy snuggling into your side keeps you utterly present and engaged, a true blessing for anyone whose mind tends to wander more than a crawfish in a bucket. For those in Louisiana seeking a dose of calm amidst the vibrant chaos, this can be a truly grounding experience.

See ZEN, Page 5

June is Great Outdoors Month



The Tangi Times

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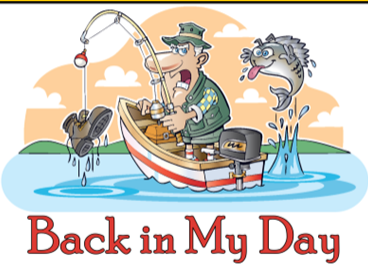
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What's inside this issue?



Back in My Day



Our
Wild, Wild
World



SLITHERY
THINGS

So misunderstood!



MEME MOJO

and
much
more!

One Dollar



1 97644 87009 7

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL PARISH WIDE BASH!

NORTH END - JULY 18TH
OW DILLON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, 1459 SERVICE RD., KENTWOOD

CENTRAL - JULY 25TH
INDEPENDENCE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY, 221 TIGER AVE.

SOUTH END - AUGUST 1ST
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TANGIPAHOA PARISH



Back in my day, we didn't have no fancy "self-care Sundays" or spa days. Our version of pampering was sitting on the porch with a jar of pickle juice, slapping mosquitos, and hoping Paw Paw didn't fire up the chain-saw just for fun. If you were real fancy, you might get a menthol rub and an ice pack slapped on whatever body part you threw out wrestling a goat.

Nowadays, folks talk about their "step count." Shoot, back in my day, we didn't count steps – we counted how many fire ant hills we didn't step in. And let me tell you, the day I outran a swarm barefoot with a broken flip-flop was the day I earned the name "Two-Toes." Ain't no Fitbit that can track that kind of cardio.

And don't get me started on grocery shopping. Today y'all got grocery apps, curbside pickup, and gluten-free almond water hand-delivered in a recyclable hemp bag.

Back in my day, grocery shopping was a full-blown event. You didn't "swing by the store" – you packed up the car like you were going on a pilgrimage.

Maw Maw would make a list on the back of an envelope that already had a phone number, a gumbo recipe, and possibly a dead mosquito squished on it. She'd round up us kids, hollering for us to "get in or get left," and we'd cram into the back of a station wagon with no seatbelts and a cracked window that smelled like Tab and mothballs.

Our toys didn't need batteries. We had bottle rockets, bottle caps, and bottles – sometimes all at once. Ever see a ten-year-old launch a potato with PVC pipe and questionable decision-making? That was science, son. Backyard engineering with a side of stitches.

And if we got bored? We'd play "guess what's in the Tupperware," which was either leftovers or a science experiment with fur. You win either way – you're either full or you earn the family's respect for surviving it.

So next time life feels tough, just remember: I once got electrocuted trying to build a squirrel-proof clothesline and still made it to dinner on time. Now that's resilience. See y'all next week – unless the fire ants get me first.

Safety Tip of the Day
Avoid Car Jackings

When your driving, always leave yourself an out, especially at a stop light and stop signs.

Stay off your phone, stay aware of your surroundings.

If you see something, say something.
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There are two sides to every story. And then there are these screen shots I've got.

Just Saying

MEME MOJO

Marriage is when one person handles the flights, passports, tours, cars, bags, & bookings, and then on departure day, the other person asks, "Where are we going again?"

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PALINDROME

du jour

Was it Eliot's toilet I saw?

A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward as it does forward. If you have a favorite palindrome, send it to publisher@tangitimes.com.

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Tangled Up in Art

STEFANIE BROOKE

If you’ve ever wanted to combine hand tools and pretty flowers, the Kentwood Branch Library has just the thing. On Saturday, June 21, from 11am to 1pm, they’re hosting a hands-on art class that’s part crafting, part carpentry, and entirely charming.

Welcome to the whimsical world of string art. Picture this: a wooden board, a handful of nails, colorful string, and a little bit of magic (okay, elbow grease). Participants will be guided through the

process of creating a lovely magnolia design using nails and thread. It’s like doodling with hardware and floss, and the results are unexpectedly beautiful.

You don’t need to be a professional artist – or even particularly coordinated. String art is one of those satisfyingly forgiving crafts that turns a bit of hammering and looping into a polished piece of wall-worthy art. It’s great for all levels of artistic confidence and especial-

ly fun for those who like the idea of creating something tactile and totally unique.

The Kentwood Adult Art Club has a knack for blending creativity with community, and this event is no exception. It’s a great chance to try something new, make a little mess (in a good way), and leave with a magnolia that won’t wilt in the Louisiana heat. Plus, there’s just something therapeutic about tapping in nails and seeing a pattern take shape before your eyes.

This event is totally free, but registration is required – and spaces are sure to go fast. You can sign up online or call the Kentwood Branch at 985-229-3596 to reserve your spot.

Come hammer, loop, and laugh your way to a one-of-a-kind creation. Who knew a magnolia could bloom from a pile of string and a little imagination?

FUN FACT

The stretching and stiffening of the body and extremities while waking or yawning is known as PANDICULATION.



SLITHERY THINGS

So misunderstood!

By Kevin Hood
Louisiana Snake ID

Snakes Are Friends, Not Foes

If I were to give you five guesses to name your best friend and protector in the animal world, I wonder if you would get it right. Not only would you be unlikely to answer correctly, but you’d probably also list this amazing protector as a foe, not a friend at all.

From the smallest pests that spread diseases to you, your family, pets, livestock, and wildlife, to larger pests, like rodents, that spread diseases and cause countless house fires, snakes eat them all. Snakes spend their lives eating all the pests we work so hard to prevent from infecting us and our pets, yet because of one story in the Bible, they’re almost always viewed as an evil villain.

Snakes are not evil. They’re not out to get you, and we can coexist.

They’re not even mean, and I promise they’re nothing to be scared of, once you accept that most of what you’ve heard about them is incorrect, or at the least, unreliable. For example, many people mistake a snake’s defensive behavior as being aggressive, and unlike some other animals, they will not chase you.

Let’s talk about some of the ways that snakes protect us so that you don’t think I’m crazy for calling them our best friends. All the crops and flowers we grow in our personal gardens or commercially on farms must be protected from pests of all sizes. Unfortunately, chemicals and poisons are almost always the go-to option.

Snails, slugs, aphids, and other small pests are the

primary food source for several different snakes. They don’t eat leaves, plants, fruits, or vegetables, so if you see a snake in your garden, you should be elated, not scared.

What about larger pests like mice, rats, squirrels, rabbits, birds, and other animals that eat and damage crops? Yep, snakes eat them as well! As nature’s best chemical-free pest control, snakes are protecting our food for us.

It’s not only our food; they also minimize the risk of diseases spread to us, our pets, and livestock by mice, rats, fleas, ticks, and mites. Rodents are also one of the leading causes of house fires as they chew on wires in our walls and attics.

As if keeping our food and homes safer isn’t enough, there are many medicines we use every day that are derived from snake venom. Due to the varying effects of venoms on our blood and tissues, scientists have been able to utilize this knowledge to our advantage.

The obvious use of venom is to make antivenom

for bite treatment, but that’s not all. A 2019 article from the National Library of Medicine lists numerous snake venom-based drugs that the FDA has approved for the treatment of ailments, including hypertension, blood disorders, heart attack, acute coronary syndrome, stroke, pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, blood thinners, blood coagulants for surgeries, and atrial fibrillation.

An article from the Rattlesnake Conservatory out of Jacksonville, FL, explains that research is being done on how African Black Mamba venom can be used for brain injuries, and diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. The venom of Copperheads is also currently helping combat breast cancer. So, while many people think that snake venom is taking human lives, they don’t realize that it has actually been saving them one drop at a time!

One thing we often run into is people saying, “Oh, well, I only kill the venomous ones,” but we shouldn’t be killing any of them because they’re just as important as our non-venomous friends. All native animals are essential to their ecosystem.

So, let’s change the mindset to “Every snake is a good snake!” They spend their lives helping and protecting us, so we believe they deserve the same respect.

Happy 25th Anniversary to Ben and Cassie Perez!



Ben and Cassie Perez were married on June 10, 2000.

Fundraiser for TPSO Det. Mike Johnson Double lung transplant candidate



Saturday, June 21, 2025
11:00am-5:30pm
Ponchatoula Lions Club
750 E. Pine St.
Ponchatoula

RAFFLE: Brothers in Arms Signature AR-15 5.56.
Tickets are \$30 each or \$100 for four.

To make the fundraiser for Mike successful, the following donations and support are needed:

Cooks and food for plate dinners (chicken, sausage, jambalaya, etc.); items for a silent auction; monetary donations; motorcycle/car show participants; entertainment; volunteers; and anything else that can enhance the event.

Almost any item of value can serve as an auction item. Businesses can donate gift cards, merchandise, memberships, classes, art, experiences, and a variety of other tangible and intangible products and services.

To buy a raffle ticket, donate, or if you can help in any way, please contact Mike’s daughter, Brittanni Stewart, at 985-318-9505; James Sparacello with Delta Seven at 504-915-6764; or email publisher@tangitimes.com.

Car show participants,
call Jody Borne at 985-320-9792.

TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION TO SUPPORT MIKE:
Mail check to:

Mike Johnson Fundraiser
c/o The Tangi Times
P.O. Box 743
Ponchatoula, LA 70454

Make checks payable to Michael Johnson

TO MAKE A DONATION BY CREDIT CARD
Call the Tangi Times at 985-467-0096

Please mark your calendars for the fundraiser on June 21.

Mike Johnson Fundraiser Car Show

Saturday, June 21, 2025
11:00am to 5:30pm
Ponchatoula Lions Club
750 E. Pine St., Ponchatoula

Category ID

Calling all car enthusiasts!

Bring your classic, hot rod, custom, muscle car, rat rod, vintage truck or Jeep and enjoy a great day showing off your prize possession for a great cause.

CATEGORIES

Classic • Muscle • Truck
Sports Car • Motorcycle

AWARD CATEGORIES

1st Place Classic
1st Place Muscle
1st Place Truck
1st Place Sports Car
1st Place Motorcycle
Cleanest engine
Best interior
Best paint
Best in show

GENERAL SHOW INFORMATION

- Register in advance or at the event
- \$25 entry fee
- 50/50 Raffle

SHOW VEHICLE INFORMATION

- Registration will begin at 10:00am
- Vehicles must be in place by noon to be judged
- Voting ballots must be turned in by 1:00pm sharp!
- Awards will be announced at 3:30pm

REGISTRATION (CASH ONLY – NO CARDS OR VENMO)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Vehicle Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Color _____

Car Club Affiliation _____

By signing below, I hereby release all parties that participate in or attend this show, anyone associated with the promotion, organization, or coordination of this show, and the property owner(s) from any responsibility or liability for any damage that results from my participation in this show.
I understand that by signing, I hereby waive my rights to any related legal action.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please scan and email completed registration form to jody.borne@gmail.com. To request an electronic form, please send an email to publisher@tangitimes.com or call 985-467-0096. Due to the uncertain reliability of the U.S. Postal Service, please do not send this registration form via postal mail. To submit the form by hand, please deliver to the Tangi Times News Headquarters, 1579 Hwy 51, Ponchatoula, LA.

For questions regarding the car show, please call Jody Borne at 985-320-9792.

All proceeds from this event will benefit TPSO Detective Mike Johnson in support of his upcoming double lung transplant. Mike has served the public safety and trust for over 40 years, and he needs our help.

Obituaries

Harold Joseph Landry; 70; Hammond; June 1; survived by his wife, Brenda Gar-rison Landry; daughter, Traci Melancon; stepchildren, Christopher Canet, Theresa Perez, and David Canet; siblings, Lawrence Landry (Dolly), Shirley Glynn, and Henry Landry (Toni); two grandchildren; nine step-grandchildren; great-grandson, Chris-tian, and many family members and friends.

John Monroe Saucier, Jr.; 49; Springfield; June 6; survived by his wife, Jo Jean Saucier; children, Julie, Travis (Emma), Megan (Paul), Tom (Sarah), Shelby, and Allie; grandchildren, Hunter, Sophia, and Austin; siblings, Kacy, Sammy (Lisa), and Butch (Mallory); mother, Linda Saucier; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Vera Elsie Breckwoldt Acosta; 88; Ponchatoula; June 7; survived by her son, John Joseph Acosta; daughter-in-law, Tina Marie Acosta; sister, Irma Vining; and grand-daughters, Savannah and Shana Acosta.

Donna Renee Olivier; 60; Hammond; June 8; survived by her parents, JoAnn E. and John Revis Olivier; sisters, Carla Dean and Rhonda Poitra; brother, John Olivier; and countless nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Johnnie Smith; 85; Kentwood; June 9; survived by his daughters, Sherry Rosa-mond (Charles) and Tammy Smith (Michael); grandchildren, Stormie McNabb (Col-by), Dustin Rosamond (Madison), Tyler Dover, and Abigail Dover; sister, Carolyn Baxter (Henry); brother, Elbert Smith, Jr. (Wanda); and great-grandchildren, Isabella and Logan Rosamond and Creed McNabb.

Edith "Pat" Charbonnet; 83; Ponchatoula; June 9; survived by her children, De-laine Verdin (Donnie), Jimmy Charbonnet (Tammy), Michele (Micki) Leblanc, and Nanette Wetzel; grandchildren, Jodi Raiford, Heather VanGilder, Courtney Delatte (Neil), Ryan Charbonnet (Sandi), Danielle Wetzel, Dustin Charbonnet (Danielle), Kevin Warsh, and Joshua Wetzel; and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Edmond Ball Brescher II; 81; Ponchatoula; June 10; survived by his wife, Chris-tine Brescher; son, Edmond Brescher III "Eddie" (Lauren); grandchildren, Edmond, Georgia, and Grace; siblings, Wayne (Jill) and Sherrie; six nieces; four nephews; and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Patricia W. and Michael Picard and Aleta W. and Mark Harmon.

Elwood Lee Daniels; 75; Hammond; June 10; survived by his former wife and loving caretaker, Karen; daughter, Krissy Daniels; granddaughter, Kyleigh Daniels; sister, Sandra Wagner; and brothers, Barry (Sue) and Ronnie Daniels (Sheree).

Mary Beatrice Hutchinson Davis 'Bea Davis'; 98; Albany; June 10; survived by her sons, Rodney (Darleen) and Brent Davis (Mary Ann); grandchildren, Chad (Da-nicia), Ron (Latricia), Lance (Brittani), Jeremiah (Amy), Chris (Stacey), Scott (Kelly), and April (Kyle); fifteen great-grandchildren; and ten great-great-grandchildren.



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Public Notices

OFFICIAL ADVERTISEMENT
FOR BIDS

PROJECT:
**AUDUBON REGIONAL LIBRARY ST.
HELENA PARISH LIBRARY**

BID DATE:
Sealed bids will be received on
Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 2:00 P.M.

OWNER:
St. Helena Parish Police Jury
P.O. Box 339
Greensburg, LA 70441

PLACE: Bids will be re-
ceived by HOLLY & SMITH ARCHI-
TECTS, APAC, for the St. Helena Parish
Police Jury at their office located at 17911
LA-43, Greensburg, LA 70441 and will be
opened and read aloud.

All bids shall be submitted in a sealed
envelope bearing legibly on the exterior,
the following:

1. Job Name and Owner
2. Architect
3. Date
4. Contractor's Name, Address,
and License Number

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period
of thirty (30) days after receipt of bid.

All Drawings, Specifications, and oth-
er Contract Documents for the project are
on file and open for inspection at the of-
fices of HOLLY & SMITH ARCHITECTS,
A Professional Architectural Corporation,
208 North Cate Street, Hammond, Lou-
isiana.

Complete Bid Documents for this
project are available in electronic form.
They may be obtained without charge
and without deposit from Holly & Smith
Architects, APAC. Printed copies are
not available from the Designer, but ar-
rangements can be made to obtain them
through most reprographic firms. Plan
holders are responsible for their own re-
production costs. Questions about this
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A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled
for **Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**
at 17911 LA-43, Greensburg, LA 70441.

All bidders shall meet the require-
ments of the State of Louisiana Con-
tractor's Licensing law, Louisiana Re-
vised Statute 37:2150 through 2164, as
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Sureties used for obtaining Bonds
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As a requirement under Louisiana
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In accordance with R.S. 38:2212 (A)
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stated in the Advertisement for Bids and
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be considered as informalities and shall
not be waived.

Any person with disabilities requiring
special accommodations must contact
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than seven (7) days prior to the bid open-
ing and pre-bid conference.

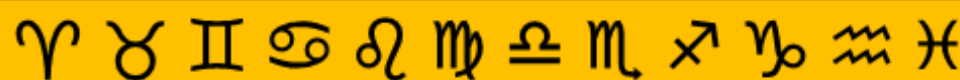
The Owner shall have the right to
reject any and all bids for just cause in
accordance with R.S. 38:2214 B.1-5.

Bidders have the option to submit
bids electronically with Louisiana Revised
Statute 38:2212 A(1)(f)(i). Bids submitted
electronically shall be submitted to [www.
centralauctionhouse.com](http://www.centralauctionhouse.com).

Publish: 6/16, 6/23 & 6/30

Cost of Notice: \$31.50

Horoscopes



3rd week of June

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, the universe is giving you a chance to get in some rest and relaxation before you have to tackle your very long list of tasks. Soak it all up while the break lasts.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you value comfort and security, which is probably why you will want to revisit some of your investments over the next few days to figure out if you are maximizing your money.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

You excel at seeing both sides of a situation, Gemini. Follow your intuition as you try to navigate a tricky situation at work that requires you to make a firm decision.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

This is a great week to work behind the scenes, Cancer. Consider stepping back from any projects you had planned and let someone else take the lead for a little bit.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Don't try to cram too many experiences into this particular week, Leo. You may be disappointed by the results if you take on too much. It's best to spread everything out.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, aim for balance right now. Everything may seem like it is up in the air, so if you focus on two or three important things in your life, you can tackle them successfully.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

It isn't the job of someone else to make you happy, Libra. You have to figure out how to do that on your own. A bit of conflict over miscommunication may arise this week.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Exercise caution if you are thinking of changing things up, Scorpio. People are used to routine and too much change at once can lead to a lot of floundering and lack of effort.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Touch base with your dearest friends, Sagittarius, especially if they haven't heard from you in a long while. This might be the week to make some plans and reconnect.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, spring cleaning has long passed, but you might want to revisit some organizing and decluttering projects at home. Get rid of as much as you can.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, slowing down and taking stock of your situation is a good idea this week. Not everything needs to be done in a day, so pace yourself and make a good plan of action.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Try turning off all the excess noise in your life right now, Pisces. Focus on your own thoughts and feelings this week, rather than what others want from you.



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June Garden of the Month
From the Gardenettes



(Courtesy Photo)

From left: Gardenettes Chairman Darnell Kimber, Mary Hirsch, Pete Clark, President Susan Pizani, Vicky Fannaly, and Virginia Hawkins

Pete Clark, 39763 Rou Mar Nei, received Garden of the Month honors from the Gardenettes for his colorful, well-maintained landscaping. Chairman Darnell Kimber and President Susan Pizani made the presentation along with club members Mary Hirsch, Vicky Fannaly, and Virginia Hawkin.

The garden club belongs to District VI, Louisiana Garden Club Federation, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc. Clark, whose whimsical statuary accents his well-manicured shrubbery, has large pots of lavender petunias to contrast against the dark yellow exterior of his home. Gold dust Aucuba are trimmed to give depth to the flower beds. Clark uses Mandevilla in the ground for a textured ground cover effect. Stylized topiary border each side of the overhang above his front entryway. Green and white Liriope intersperse with colorful Vinca in Clark’s front flower beds. The overall attractiveness of his landscaping won the club’s attention to this well-deserving gardener.

Primary Suspect Arrested in March Vehicle Burglaries
Additional Suspects Still Sought
From TPSO

The Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff’s Office (TPSO) has arrested a 16-year-old connected to a rash of vehicle burglaries in the Tickfaw and Natchitoches areas but is still in need of the public’s help identifying and locating the additional suspects. The teenage male was booked into the Florida Parishes Juvenile Detention Center on May 15 following his arrest in an out-of-parish theft case. During that arrest, he was found in possession of a stolen gun from one of the vehicles broken into in this case. On March 29, multiple vehicles were broken into in the Jesse Bickford Road area of Tickfaw. Several surveillance videos captured at least two suspects, the one consistent one being the teen now arrested, committing the crimes.

While detectives have leads on at least two other suspects, a third additional suspect is still unknown. Additional charges are likely for the teen as well as possible for his guardian(s). Sheriff Gerald Sticker encourages anyone with information about the remaining suspects, or their whereabouts, to contact the Criminal Investigations Office at 985-402-0214. If you’d prefer to share information anonymously, you can do so through Crime Stoppers of Tangipahoa’s tip line at 1-800-554-5245 or visit www.tangicrimestoppers.com and click on the P3 Tips icon or Submit A Tip! You may be eligible for a cash reward.

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Citizens Have a Right to Self-Defense
From LA Freedom Caucus

In response to growing concerns over public safety and road-blocking incidents in violent protests around the country, the Louisiana Freedom Caucus (LAFC) reminds citizens of their right to self-defense under Louisiana law — both civilly and criminally — when faced with imminent danger on public roads. One national organization has several cities in Louisiana targeted for riots June 14: New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Covington, Ruston, Leesville, Monroe, Alexandria, Lake Charles, and Lafayette. Thanks to legislation authored by LAFC member Rep. Jay Gallé, Louisiana law now provides civil immunity to any driver who reasonably believes they or their passengers are in immediate danger from individuals

illegally blocking a public roadway, and who uses their vehicle solely to retreat or escape the threat. The protections are clear: you cannot be sued if you’re acting to save your life or the lives of others. Additionally, existing Louisiana statutes on justifiable use of force support your right to self-defense in such situations. If a criminal charge were brought against a driver, they would be entitled to assert that they acted to prevent serious bodily harm — a defense grounded in Louisiana’s long-standing commitment to the rights of law-abiding citizens. Key facts: • R.S. 9:2792.10 shields drivers from civil lawsuits when fleeing unlawful road blockades in self-defense. • Louisiana criminal law

recognizes the right to use force — including with a vehicle — to prevent death or serious injury. “Louisiana will not tolerate lawlessness nor threats to personal safety,” said Rep. Jay Gallé, Member of the Louisiana Freedom Caucus. “We passed this law so innocent people would not be punished for seeking safety and self-defense. We all have a fundamental right to protect ourselves and our families, and this piece of legislation protects that right without fear of being sued, and without fear of prosecution.” “The Louisiana Freedom Caucus will continue to support legislation that upholds the rule of law, protects the innocent, and ensures that no citizen is punished for defending themselves,” said Beryl Amedée, Chairwoman of the Louisiana Freedom Caucus. “Self-defense is a basic human right.”

ZEN

(FROM PAGE 1)

Now, not all creatures are created equal in the yoga companion department. While a grizzly bear might make for an interesting, albeit terrifying, flow, most animal yoga classes gravitate towards smaller, gentler, and more playful beings. Baby goats are practically the superstars of this scene, with their curious nature and propensity for climbing on anything (including your back!). Puppies and kittens are also incredibly popular, offering endless cuddles and playful distractions.

There are even classes with bunnies and chickens! The key is a temperament that’s friendly, generally non-aggressive, and enjoys human interaction – basically, animals that are more likely to offer a nuzzle than a gnaw. A typical yoga with animals class in, say, the lush green fields outside of Baton Rouge, might look something like this: you arrive, roll out your mat, and then the delightful chaos begins. The animals, usually young and full of beans, are let loose to roam freely among the yogis. The instructor leads a gentle, often modified, yoga sequence. You might find yourself in a child’s pose with a tiny goat exploring your ponytail, or attempting a warrior pose with a puppy playfully tugging at your mat.

There’s usually less emphasis on perfect alignment and more on embracing the unexpected. Laughter is highly encouraged, and taking a moment to pet a passing animal is absolutely part of the practice. Many of these classes also partner with local shelters, making it a win-win: the animals get socialized and potential forever homes, and you get a dose of zen and a whole lot of adorable. It’s a unique and truly unforgettable way to connect with both your inner self and the whimsical world around you.

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Does This Baby Bird Need Help?

I found my first baby bird, a European Starling in 2004. Thanks to the internet, I was able to quickly find some information on what to do, but most of it was for domestic pet birds, not much information on wild ones. Even though I had access to information online, it still took me four months to find out my little bird was a European Starling, and this is how my bird rescue journey started.

I had no idea about protected/unprotected species, various species requiring various diets, or that wildlife rehabbers existed, and even better, that I could become one! My idea of a wildlife rehabber was brave people in Africa protecting elephants and raising orphan rhinos. I had no idea!

Since this is baby season, let's discuss when baby birds may be in need of rescue, and when they should be left alone. A very common thing the majority of people believe is if a baby bird is hopping around on the ground, unable to fly more than just a couple of inches, approaches a human showing no fear, and starts crying and opening its beak, it's in need of help. This may not

actually be the case.

There are six stages a bird goes through: Egg, hatching, nestling, fledgling, juvenile, and adult. Once the egg hatches, it's called a hatchling. Most are blind as their eyes aren't open yet, and a lot of them are completely naked, while others may have some soft fuzz covering them.

Once their eyes open and pin feathers start growing in, they're a nestling, still unable to stand, but able to crawl around in the nest and explore. After they find their legs and realize they can hop around, albeit a bit wobbly, they may hop to the edge of their nest and into surrounding areas, then hop down to the ground.

During this stage many baby birds will be seen flapping their wings vigorously, which is needed to strengthen the muscles which will in just a few more days allow them to take their first flight. This is the most crucial stage in a baby bird's development, and this is the stage where most of them are taken from the wild by well-meaning individuals, thinking they are in need of help.

The process of leaving the nest is called fledging.

Mom and sometimes even dad, take care of them on the ground.

Fledglings don't return back to the nest for the night because they've just entered the next stage of learning about becoming a proper bird, which includes knowing where to hide at night. At this stage they haven't developed a fear of humans and may happily approach people.

It's best to just let them be, as long as they're not visibly injured and parents and/or siblings haven't been killed. If they are in the middle of a road or street, it's OK to gently pick them up and move them to a safer spot close by.

This is the most crucial stage as they learn about predators, people, other dangers, how to forage/hunt, and since fledglings are a lot like toddlers, they need a lot of discipline and instruction from the adults in their flocks. A hatchling, nestling, or injured fledgling (or adult), will need assistance.

A common misconception is that a mama bird can return a baby bird back to the nest, and this is not the case. If the location of the nest is known, and it's possible to return the baby to the nest, this is what rehabbers will always recommend, as long as the bird isn't injured or orphaned. If the nest was destroyed, but the parent birds are around and visibly concerned for their babies, a makeshift nest can be designed and placed close to where the original nest was, as long as the location isn't in direct sunlight.

Never leave a baby bird unable to stand or hop on the ground. They will be eaten by predators, so it's best to always secure them first in a small box lined with tissue paper, then call a rehabber for further assistance.

There are some species, however, like chimney swifts and purple martins, when found on the ground, they are in need of help regardless of what age they are, as it's very uncommon for these birds to end up on the ground.

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